

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

S E C R E T STATE 250930

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 238 SENT ACTION LONDON PARIS INFO
SECSTATE AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO TEL AVIV JIDDA KUWAIT MOSCOW
NATO, DECEMBER 22ND:

QUOTE S E C R E T SECTO 238

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OVIP

SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF FRENCH AND BRITISH AMBASSABTT.

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY SISCO BRIEFED FRENCH AMBASSADOR FERNAND-
LAURANT AND BRITISH AMBASSADOR HILDGARD SEPARATELY DEC. 22
SHORTLY BEFORE SECRETARY AND PARTY EMPLANED FOR HOME.
SISCO SAID SECRETARY REGRETTEED NOT BEING ABLE TO DO THIS HIMSELF
SECRET

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BUT PRESS OF BUSINESS PREVENTED IT.

2. SISCO SAID CONFERENCE WENT PRETTY MUCH AS PLANNED AND AS WE
EXPECTED. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE SYRIANS DID NOT CHOOSE
TO PARTICIPATE, BUT ON OTHER HAND THEIR ABSENCE PROBABLY

IMPROVED PROSPECT THAT CONFERENCE COULD FOCUS ON IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE SOLVED. IN THE FIRST DAY'S PUBLIC SESSION, SPEECHES WERE OBVIOUSLY MAINLY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION. SISCO COMMENTED THAT OVERALL ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN SOMETHING LESS THAN REAL WARMTH. ON PART OF EGYPTIANS IN PARTICULAR, ESPECIALLY GIVEN SYRIAN DECISION STAY AWAY, THERE HAD BEEN CONTINUING CONCERN AND WARINESS ABOUT VISIBLE CONTACT WITH ISRAELIS (SISCO DESCRIBED MINOR CONTRETEMPS ABOUT SEATING ARRANGEMENTS WHICH FORTUNATELY HAD BEEN QUICKLY RESOLVED). HOWEVER, ARABA AS AWELL AS ISRAELIS SEEMED TO REALIZE OPENING OF CONFERENCE WAS HISTORIC MOMENT AND PRESENTED OPPORTUNITY WHICH MUST NOT BE LOST.

3. SISCO SAID MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF CONFERENCE HAD BEEN REAL CONSENSUS THAT WAS ACHIEVED ON PLAN FOR ONGOING WORK OF CONFERENCE. AS CONSENSUS STATEMENT READ BY SYG INDICATED, THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENT THAT CONFERENCE WOULD STAY IN SESSION, AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD REMAIN AVAILABLE AND IN TOUCH AT LEAST AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. EGYPT-ISRAELI WORKING GROUP WOULD BE SET UP TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON DISENGAGEMENT AND SEPARATION OF FORCES. THIS WOULD BEGIN SOMETIME NEXT WEEK, AND WOULD NOT WAIT FOR ISRAELI ELECTIONS. ALL THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN WELL PREPARED IN ADVANCE IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS LAST EVENING AND THIS MORNING, SO THAT CONFERENCE WAS ABLE TO MEET THIS MORNING, WITH ALL THIS BUTTONED DOWN.

4. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS ASKED IF SISCO FORESAW WORKING GROUP TALKS PROCEEDING ON SAME PATTERN AS KILOMETER 101 TALKS. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD GENERAL SIILASVUO COME HERE TO TAKE PART? SISCO SAID HE EXPECTED PROCEDURE TO BE SAME, AND SIILASVUO WOULD COME TO GENEVA. HE CONFIRMED THAT NEITHER US NOR SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES CWOULD PARTICIPATE. HE WAID WE EXPECT WORKING GROUP NEGOTIATIONS TO BE INTENSIFIED AFTER DECEMBER 31 ISRAELI ELECTIONS AND WE WERE HOPEFUL THAT AN AGREEMENT ON DISENGAGEMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE SOON THEREAFTER. SISCO SAID THE US INTENDED TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO HELP GET AN AGREEMENT IN JANUARY. BRITISH WONDERED IF HAVING MILITARY TALKS IN POLITICAL CONTEXT OF PEACE CONFERENCE WOULD MAKE IT AS EASY TO SECRET

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MAKE PROGRESS AS IN KILOMETER 101 TALKS, WHERE CONTEXT WAS EXCLUSIVELY MILITARY. SISCO THOUGHT MILITARY CONTEXT BEST, AND IN ANY EVENT EGYPTIANS THEMSELVES SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR THIS KIND OF FRAMEWORK, NOT POLITICAL.

5. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH ASKED WHETHER ANY WORK MIGHT BE DONE ON OTHER ASPECTS WHILE EGYPT/ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT TALKS UNDERWAY. SISCO SAID DOOR HAD BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR THIS, BUT THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE PREMATURE NOW. WE OURSELVES DID NOT PRESS FOR ANYTHING LIKE THIS BECAUSE WE BELIEVE FIRMLY THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH WAS BEST, AND ONCE CONCRETE PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON GROUND, PSYCHOLOGICAL ATMOSPHERE OF CONFERENCE WOULD CHANGE, MAKING PROGRESS ON OTHER ISSUES MORE FEASIBLE. BRITISH ASKED WHETHER THIS HELD TRUE OF ISRAELI/JORDAN

DISCUSSION AS WELL, AND SISCO REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH WE HOPE SOMETHING WOULD GET STARTED ON JORDAN FRONT AS WELL, WOULD PROBABLY LAG SOMEWHAT BEHIND THE START OF EGYPT/ISRAELI TALKS.

6. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH ASKED OUR ASSESSMENT OF SYRIA VIS-A-VIS CONFERENCE. SISCO SAID THAT OUR JUDGMENT WAS SYRIAN POSTURE WAS ONE OF WATCHFUL WAITING. DOOR HAD BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR THEM, AND OUR JUDGMENT WAS IF SOLID PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT, SYRIANS WOULD WANT TO COME IN AT SUBSEQUENT STAGE. ON QUESTION SOVIET ATTITUDE AT CONFERENCE, SISCO TOLD BOTH ENVOYS THAT IT WAS PROBABLY TOO EARLY TO DESCRIBE THIS DEFINITELY, ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN COOPERATIVE IN PROCEDURAL PHRASE. AS CONFERENCE PROCEEDED SOVIET INTENTIONS WOULD BE GIVEN THOROUGH-GOING TEST.

7. FINALLY, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SISCO CONFIRMED THAT ISSUE OF PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION HAD NOT ARISEN. KISSINGER

UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

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TAGS: PEPR, OVIP, US, TU, FR, (LAURANT, FERNAND)
To: ANKARA
ATHENS
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN

THE HAGUE
LISBON
LUXEMBOURG
MADRID
OSLO
OTTAWA
REYKJAVIK

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